

SENATOR
LITTLE HOOPER COMMISSION
SENATOR
CALIFORNIA DEBT AND
INVESTMENT ADVISORY
COMMISSION

California State Senate

SENATOR
BILL EMMERSON
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
VICE-CHAIR
BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
VICE-CHAIR
GOVERNMENT & FINANCE
HUMAN SERVICES
RULES

July 8, 2013

Mark Cowen, Director
State of California, Department of Water Resources
1416 - 9th Street, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 95814



**RE: Proposition 1E Round 2 Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program
City of Calimesa – Calimesa Creek Flood Control and Aquifer Recharge Project**

Dear Mr. Cowen,

I am writing to express my concerns with the current funding distribution of the Proposition 1E Round 2 Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program and the scoring for the City of Calimesa's (City) application.

Regarding the program, I have reviewed the funding summary distribution for Round 1 together with the recommended Round 2 award and have concerns that certain regions are receiving disproportionate amounts of funding with the proposed distribution.

For example, the Bay Area Region is receiving approximately 41% of the total funding with only 18% of the state population. Additionally, four agencies are receiving multiple awards. In particular, Santa Clara Valley Water District received \$25 million in Round 1 and is now suggested to receive another \$30 million, or more than 20% of the total funding. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District received \$20 million in Round 1 and is now suggested to receive another \$28.4 million in Round 2. These two agencies alone would receive nearly 40% of the total program funding. In Round 2, these two agencies will receive approximately two-thirds of the funding.

Comparatively, the Santa Ana Region, of which Calimesa resides, has 14% of the state population but will only receive approximately 11% of the total funding and receives no funding in Round 2.

Not only is the Santa Ana Region disproportionately underfunded, the region has also never received a state grant from any of the water funding sources including: Propositions 13, 40 50, 84 and 1E. Further, the proposed Calimesa Creek Flood Control and Aquifer Recharge Project would provide a myriad of essential benefits to the region including: improving significant flooding concerns, mitigating water supply challenges in the region and providing substantial economic benefits to an economically distressed region.

The City of Calimesa was recently advised that the scoring of their application was insufficient to qualify for funding for this program. Given the discrepancies in the proposed distribution of funding, I respectfully urge your reconsideration of the City's application and ask that you fund their project.

Thank you for your highest consideration of this letter. If you have any further questions please feel free to call my office at (909)801-5040.

Sincerely,

BILL EMMERSON
Senator, 23rd District

cc: Randy Anstine, Calimesa City Manager
Michael Thornton, Calimesa City Engineer

DISTRICT OFFICE
1801 ORANGE TREE LANE, SUITE 240
PALMDALE, CA 92374
TEL (909) 801-5040
FAX (909) 801-5016

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5082
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4023
FAX (916) 327-2272

DISTRICT OFFICE
73710 FRED WARING DRIVE, SUITE 108
PALM DESERT, CA 92260
TEL (760) 568-0408
FAX (760) 568-1501

Control # 2013-0015

Mark Cowen

call up date: 7/29/13